



Talbot County Department of Parks and Recreation
Advisory Board Minutes
September 17, 2020

Called to Order by Preston Peper

Members in attendance were Jeff Harrison, David Adams, Mike Butler, Dave Fisher, Walter Chase, Jamie Latham, Jeff Parks, Councilman Frank Divilio and Parks and Recreation Director, Preston Peper

Previous Meeting Minutes

Previous meeting minutes reviewed and approved, motion by Harrison, second by Chase.

Chairperson Report/County Council Representative

With COVID affecting business, need to start working on lost revenue. **Divilio expressed interest in taking control of Bill Burton Park (not the pier) and the expenses associated with the management of the park.** Board members voiced concerns over additional cost and staffing requirements. Board open to discussions with Maryland DNR to explore plans for park. *Parking needed badly at this area!*

Department of Parks and Recreation Report

Budget: Council approved a flat budget, capital items approved but all capital items moved into a Contingency Fund for all departments, to be disbursed after council approval.

AEDs: Installed at the Community Center ballfields, Perry Cabin and Home Run Baker parks. Will look into possibility of getting additional AED installed at Chapel Baseball Complex.

New Business

COVID update on summer season: Pools closed, summer camp and sports programs open with limited attendance by participants (about 25/week in camp), bigger hit came from major rentals pulling out COVID.

COVID update on ice season: ESHA, TFST, high school teams will utilize ice, public ice and lessons will commence under COVID guidelines, basketball may not be able to occur.

Landings Officer Special Officer Commission: Colman had a SOC with previous employer, this would give the landings officer more “teeth” for tickets, etc. Would allow for him to run plates directly, make arrests, cite offenders, etc. Would also take some of the load off TCSO for calls. No firearms allowed. Joe Gamble will be consulted for approval before moving forward to Council. *Park Board approved of appointment 7-0.*

925 Port Street discussion: house continues to be a blight on the County and this is another request to sell the property to an outside entity that may restore the building to its formal state. Board agreed.

Community Center Expansion Business Plan Discussion: Director proposed obtaining a low interest loan to cover the needed cost with POS funds to construct the expansion. Future POS will be used to pay off principal year to year with the County needing to pay annual interest costs. Estimated gross revenue would be over \$100,000; which would cover interest costs annually. Feasibility study completed, need for plans to be draw up to put out to bid for better pricing than forecast pricing.

Frederick Douglass Park on the Tuckahoe update: Interpretive signage installed, walking path and parking lot installed, ribbon cutting went really well. Working with LSG to complete the master plan for the park in order to move forward with improvements.

Member Reports

Latham expressed frustration that teams are traveling to Salisbury for PONY league instead of utilizing Sr field at the CC; which is being used for adult softball fall league.

Adjournment: Next meeting will be March 19, 2020, 6:00pm